

Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7857

UNCLAS MANAGUA 3380

FOR DEPUTY UNDERSECRETARY EAGLEBURGER FROM THEBERGE

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: APER, NU

SUBJECT: INCREASE IN FOREIGN NATIONAL STAFFING

1. WITH REFERENCE TO OUR TELEPHONE DISCUSSION ON AUGUST 26, I WISH TO CONFIRM THIS POST'S URGENT NEED FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN FSL POSITION OF PROTOCOL ASSISTANT AND A SIMULTANEOUS INCREASE IN THE POST'S OPERATING EXPENSE ALLOTMENT TO COVER THE COST OF THE POSITION. AS I EXPLAINED TO YOU, THE NEED FOR THE POSITION ARISES FROM THE INCREASED DEMANDS WHICH I HAVE ALREADY BEGUN TO LEVY UPON ALL SEGMENTS OF THE EMBASSY, DEMANDS WHICH WILL INTENSIFY AS TIME PASSES.

2. IN THE PAST, ROUTINE PROTOCOLARY TASKS SUCH AS DIPLOMATIC NOTES, INVITATIONS, AND COURTESY LETTERS HAVE FALLEN DIRECTLY ON AMERICAN SECRETARIAL AND POLITICAL OFFICER PERSONNEL. THE SYSTEM WAS ABLE TO HOLD UP AS LONG AS AMBASSADORIAL CONTACTS WERE LIMITED, OFFICIAL ENTERTAINING WAS MINIMAL AND THE CORRESPONDENCE WAS CONDUCTED IN ENGLISH. MOREOVER, WITH THE EMPHASIS ON SPORADIC VERBAL INTRA-EMBASSY COMMUNICATION, RATHER THAN WRITTEN, AND WITH MINIMUM STRESS ON CONCEPTUAL REPORTING,, SECRETARIES AND OFFICERS FOUND THE TIME TO ACCOMMODATE THESE TASKS.

3. I, HOWEVER, INTEND TO REQUIRE MUCH MORE RESEARCH AND CONCEPTUAL ANALYSIS FROM MY OFFICERS AND THEY AND THEIR SECRETARIES WILL NO LONGER HAVE THE TIME TO PERFORM PROTOCOLARY

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DUTIES. MY OWN SECRETARY WILL ALSO BE FULLY OCCUPIED WITH A

MULTITUDE OF OTHER DUTIES. AT THE SAME TIME, THE VOLUME OF PROTOCOLARY WORK WILL INCREASE SIGNIFICANTLY AS MY WIFE AND I EXPAND CONTACTS AMONG ALL SEGMENTS OF THE POPULATION (WASHINGTON IS VERY KEEN ON THIS).

4. THE INCUMBENT OF THE REQUESTED POSITION WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PREPARING AND RESPONDING TO INVITATIONS, PREPARING ROUTINE DIPLOMATIC NOTES, TRANSLATING, DRAFTING AND TYPING COURTESY AND PROTOCOLARY CORRESPONDENCE IN SPANISH, RECEIVING AND REGISTERING INCOMING DIPLOMATIC NOTES, ESCORTING VISITORS TO THE AMBASSADOR'S OFFICE AND WOULD BE THE POINT OF CONTACT FOR DIPLOMATIC VISA APPLICATIONS. TO BE ABLE TO CARRY OUT THESE RESPONSIBILITIES SATISFACTORILY, THE INDIVIDUAL MUST BE SOMEONE OF A GOOD BACKGROUND, WELL-EDUCATED AND WITH A WIDE CIRCLE OF ACQUAINTANCES IN GOVERNMENT, OPPOSITION AND BUSINESS CIRCLES.

5. I THEREFORE URGENTLY REQUEST THAT THE POSITION OF PROTOCOL ASSISTANT, FSL-7/5, \$4,601 PER ANNUM, BE AUTHORIZED AND THAT THE EMBASSY'S ALLOTMENT AND STAFFING PATTERN BE ADJUSTED ACCORDINGLY.

6. YOUR ASSISTANCE WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED.
THEBERGE

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